

**NAME**

`groff_omit` – demarcate non-printing meta-data in groff input

**DESCRIPTION**

`groff_omit` is an auxiliary `groff(7)` macro package, which is intended for use when a mechanism is required for identification of embedded meta-data, within `groff(7)` input, while excluding it from `groff(1)` output, yet facilitating its extraction for use in other contexts. It defines the **OMIT** macro, which may be used by any client macro package, or document, to generate pairs of macro definitions, such as the **CS**, and **CE** macro pair generated by `groff_mspdf(7)`, and used by `pdfroff(1)`, to identify meta-data, within any `groff(7)` input data stream, whence it will be ignored during normal `groff(1)` processing, but will be available for extraction, and inclusion, by `pdfroff(1)`, while processing a nominated style-sheet for the purpose of formatting document front-matter.

The **OMIT** macro may be used to generate arbitrarily named macro pairs, each of which will exhibit the same behaviour as `groff_mspdf(7)`'s **CS** and **CE** pair. Within each such generated macro pair, the macro which corresponds to **CS** — and **CS** itself, of course — records its own name, as a meta-data block initiator, after which it performs the equivalent of the `groff(7)`

```
.ig CE
```

request, (substituting the corresponding macro of the pair for **CE**), thus causing `groff(1)` to ignore the demarcated input data block.

When the meta-data block termination macro, which corresponds to `groff_mspdf(7)`'s **CE** macro, is encountered, it checks that there is a record of an active meta-data block, initiated by its corresponding initiator macro, and then deletes the initiation record. If no such initiation record exists, a diagnostic message is displayed, reporting this as an error.

**USAGE**

The `groff_omit` macros are normally loaded by another, dependent client macro package, using a `groff(7)` request of the form:

```
.mso omit.tmac
```

To designate the client macro package as the origin for any associated diagnostic messages, the loading request may be qualified, for example, as when loaded by the `groff_mspdf(7)` package, to designate “`spdf.tmac`” as the message origin, and then generate the **CS** and **CE** macro pair:

```
.ds OMIT.SETUP -client spdf.tmac
.mso omit.tmac
.OMIT CS CE
```

More generally, specification of the **OMIT.SETUP** string is optional; if it *is* specified, its definition *must* be placed *before* the `omit.tmac` file is loaded, and it must conform to the syntax:

```
.ds OMIT.SETUP [-client <message-source>] [[-replace <diagnostic-macro-name>] ...]
```

specifying the optional initialization arguments:

**-client** *<message-source>*

Designates *<message-source>* as the effective origin of *all* messages which are displayed by the **OMIT** API's diagnostic macro; if this option is not specified, *<message-source>* is assigned a default value of “`omit.tmac`”.

**-replace** *<diagnostic-macro-name>*

Specifies that the **OMIT** API's diagnostic macro should be used, in place of the original diagnostic macro named by *<diagnostic-macro-name>*; this option may be repeated, as many times as may be necessary, to replace any number of other diagnostic macros.

Following initialization of the **OMIT** API, as described above, the **OMIT** macro may be called, at any appropriate time, to generate arbitrarily named meta-data demarcating macro pairs, in accordance with the generalized syntactic form:

```
.OMIT <start-macro-name> <end-macro-name>
```

Given that neither of the macros designated by *<start-macro-name>*, nor *<end-macro-name>*, has any capability for interpretation of arguments, the general format for the use of any macro pair, generated by such use of the **OMIT** macro, is:

```
.<start-macro-name>
any block of document meta-data, or other arbitrary content,
which is not to be interpreted during normal groff(1) processing,
but which should otherwise be explicitly identifiable;
this data block ends on invocation of ...
.<end-macro-name>
```

Any such block of data may then be extracted, for use in a context *other than* normal **groff(1)** processing, for example, by directing a copy of the **groff(1)** input data stream through a filter such as:

```
sed -n '/^\. *<start-macro-name>|,|^\. *<end-macro-name>/p'
```

and processing the resultant output, in whatever manner may be appropriate.

## CONTROL VARIABLES

The **groff\_omit** package interprets *one* **groff(7)** string variable, namely **OMIT.SETUP**; when this is defined *before* the *omit.tmac* file is loaded, its value is interpreted as a specification of the arguments to be passed to the **OMIT** API initialization logic; if undefined, this initialization logic behaves as if passed a default value of “**-client omit.tmac**”. The **groff\_mspdf(7)** macro package uses this facility, to insinuate its own name, “*spdf.tmac*”, as the effective source of messages originating from within itself, **groff\_omit**, and **groff\_ms(7)**.

## FILES

```
/usr/local/share/groff/site-tmac/omit.tmac
```

Implements the **OMIT** macro, its associated API initialization logic, and diagnostic macro.

## AUTHORS

The **groff\_omit** macros are provided as a constituent of the *groff-pdfmark* package, which was written by Keith Marshall <[keith@address.hidden](mailto:keith@address.hidden)>; this is maintained, independently of *GNU roff*, at Keith’s *groff-pdfmark* project hosting web-site <<https://savannah.nongnu.org/projects/groff-pdfmark/>>, whence it is also distributed, and the latest version may *always* be obtained.

## SEE ALSO

**groff(1)**, **pdfroff(1)**, **groff(7)**, **groff\_ms(7)**, **groff\_mspdf(7)**

More comprehensive documentation, on the use of the *groff-pdfmark* macro suite may be found, in PDF format, in the reference guide “*Portable Document Format Publishing with GNU Troff*”, which has also been written by Keith Marshall; the most recently published version of this guide may be read online, by following the appropriate document reference link on the *groff-pdfmark* project hosting web-site <<https://savannah.nongnu.org/projects/groff-pdfmark/>>, whence a copy may also be downloaded.